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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/509,566	09/08/2005	Gil Sam Park	026032-4820	9576

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
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EXAMINER

WHITE, RODNEY BARNETT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/509,566	PARK, GIL SAM	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rodney B. White	3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "the sliding device configured to slide a seat body upon releasing the slide-lock mechanism; a seatback including a reclining device, the seatback configured to be tilted forward upon releasing the reclining device; a seat cushion including a tip-up device, the seat cushion configured to be tipped up upon operating the tip-up device; and a walk-in mechanism including a lever 150, the walk-in mechanism configured to release the slide-lock mechanism, release the reclining device, and operate the tip-up device relative to a position of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position, wherein the walk-in mechanism comprises: a slide-release link pivotally supported by the lever; and a slide-release plate including a slide-release wire connected to the slide-lock mechanism, a reclining-release wire connected to the reclining device and a pin leaving a clearance to the slide-release link,

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the lever being connected to the tip-up device to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, the lever being configured to clear the clearance so that the pin presses the slide-release link whereby the slide-release plate swings and the slide-release wire and the reclining-release wire are pulled so as to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position" and "and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever" in claims 4-11 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). Applicant shows the invention in Figures 1-5 but never really shows how the seat is operated or any interaction between the structures or parts to achieve what is being claimed in claims 4-11. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

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the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9, lines 9-10, the phrase "operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever" is unclear and confusing language. As noted above in the objection to the drawings, is this feature shown? Furthermore, what does applicant mean by "operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever"? Even if the feature is detailed in the specification it must be clear enough in the claims so that one skilled in the art can assemble the invention.

The aforementioned problems render the claims vague and indefinite. Clarification and/or correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 4-5, 7, and 9-10, so far as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tame (U.S. Patent No. 6,513,868 B1).

Tame teaches a seat for a vehicle comprising: a sliding device including a slide-lock mechanism, the sliding device configured to slide a seat body upon releasing the slide-lock mechanism; a seatback including a reclining device, the seatback configured to be tilted forward upon releasing the reclining device; a seat cushion including a tip-up device, the seat cushion configured to be tipped up upon operating the tip-up device;

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and a walk-in mechanism including a lever 150, the walk-in mechanism configured to release the slide-lock mechanism, release the reclining device, and operate the tip-up device relative to a position of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever.

Claims 4-5, 7, and 9-10, so far as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carella et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,065,178).

Carella et al teaches a seat for a vehicle comprising: a sliding device including a slide-lock mechanism, the sliding device configured to slide a seat body upon releasing the slide-lock mechanism; a seatback including a reclining device, the seatback configured to be tilted forward upon releasing the reclining device; a seat cushion including a tip-up device, the seat cushion configured to be tipped up upon operating the tip-up device; and a walk-in mechanism including a lever 72, the walk-in mechanism configured to release the slide-lock mechanism, release the reclining device, and operate the tip-up device relative to a position of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever.

Claims 4-11, so far as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hessler et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,652,052).

Hessler et al teaches a seat for a vehicle comprising: a sliding device including a slide-lock mechanism, the sliding device configured to slide a seat body upon releasing the slide-lock mechanism; a seatback including a reclining device, the seatback configured to be tilted forward upon releasing the reclining device; a seat cushion including a tip-up device, the seat cushion configured to be tipped up upon operating the tip-up device; and a walk-in mechanism including a lever 41, the walk-in mechanism configured to release the slide-lock mechanism, release the reclining device, and operate the tip-up device relative to a position of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position, wherein the walk-in mechanism comprises: a slide-release link pivotally supported by the lever; and a slide-release plate including a slide-release wire connected to the slide-lock mechanism, a reclining-release wire connected to the reclining device and a pin leaving a clearance to the slide-release link, the lever being connected to the tip-up device to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, the lever being configured to clear the clearance so that the pin presses the slide-release link whereby the slide-release plate swings and the slide-release wire and the reclining-release wire are pulled so as to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever.

Claims 4-11, so far as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harding (U.S. Patent No. 4,707,030).

Harding teaches a seat for a vehicle comprising: a sliding device including a slide-lock mechanism, the sliding device configured to slide a seat body upon releasing the slide-lock mechanism; a seatback including a reclining device, the seatback configured to be tilted forward upon releasing the reclining device; a seat cushion including a tip-up device, the seat cushion configured to be tipped up upon operating the tip-up device; and a walk-in mechanism including a lever 98, the walk-in mechanism configured to release the slide-lock mechanism, release the reclining device, and operate the tip-up device relative to a position of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position, wherein the walk-in mechanism comprises: a slide-release link pivotally supported by the lever; and a slide-release plate including a slide-release wire connected to the slide-lock mechanism, a reclining-release wire connected to the reclining device and a pin leaving a clearance to the slide-release link, the lever being connected to the tip-up device to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, the lever being configured to clear the clearance so that the pin presses the slide-release link whereby the slide-release plate swings and the slide-release wire and the reclining-release wire are pulled so as to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position

and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever.

Claims 4-11, so far as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ainsworth et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,597,206).

Ainsworth et al teaches a seat for a vehicle comprising: a sliding device including a slide-lock mechanism, the sliding device configured to slide a seat body upon releasing the slide-lock mechanism; a seatback including a reclining device, the seatback configured to be tilted forward upon releasing the reclining device; a seat cushion including a tip-up device, the seat cushion configured to be tipped up upon operating the tip-up device; and a walk-in mechanism including a lever 22, the walk-in mechanism configured to release the slide-lock mechanism, release the reclining device, and operate the tip-up device relative to a position of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position, wherein the walk-in mechanism comprises: a slide-release link pivotally supported by the lever; and a slide-release plate including a slide-release wire connected to the slide-lock mechanism, a reclining-release wire connected to the reclining device and a pin leaving a clearance to the slide-release link, the lever being connected to the tip-up device to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, the lever being configured to clear the clearance so that the pin presses the slide-release link whereby the slide-release plate swings and the slide-release wire and the reclining-release wire are pulled so as to

release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever.

Claims 4-11, so far as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bauer et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,626,392).

Bauer et al teaches a seat for a vehicle comprising: a sliding device including a slide-lock mechanism, the sliding device configured to slide a seat body upon releasing the slide-lock mechanism; a seatback including a reclining device, the seatback configured to be tilted forward upon releasing the reclining device; a seat cushion including a tip-up device, the seat cushion configured to be tipped up upon operating the tip-up device; and a walk-in mechanism including a lever (not labeled or shown), the walk-in mechanism configured to release the slide-lock mechanism, release the reclining device, and operate the tip-up device relative to a position of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position, wherein the walk-in mechanism comprises: a slide-release link pivotally supported by the lever; and a slide-release plate including a slide-release wire connected to the slide-lock mechanism, a reclining-release wire connected to the reclining device and a pin leaving a clearance to the slide-release link, the lever being connected to the tip-up device to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, the lever being configured to clear the clearance so that the pin presses the slide-release link whereby the slide-release

plate swings and the slide-release wire and the reclining-release wire are pulled so as to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever.

Claims 4-11, so far as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Becker et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,857,702 B2).

Becker et al teaches a seat for a vehicle comprising: a sliding device including a slide-lock mechanism, the sliding device configured to slide a seat body upon releasing the slide-lock mechanism; a seatback including a reclining device, the seatback configured to be tilted forward upon releasing the reclining device; a seat cushion including a tip-up device, the seat cushion configured to be tipped up upon operating the tip-up device; and a walk-in mechanism including a lever 42, the walk-in mechanism configured to release the slide-lock mechanism, release the reclining device, and operate the tip-up device relative to a position of the lever, wherein the walk-in mechanism is configured to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, and to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position, wherein the walk-in mechanism comprises: a slide-release link pivotally supported by the lever; and a slide-release plate including a slide-release wire connected to the slide-lock mechanism, a reclining-release wire connected to the reclining device and a pin leaving a clearance to the slide-release link, the lever being connected to the tip-up device to operate the tip-up device upon moving the lever to an intermediate position, the lever being configured to clear the clearance

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so that the pin presses the slide-release link whereby the slide-release plate swings and the slide-release wire and the reclining-release wire are pulled so as to release the slide-lock mechanism and the reclining device upon moving the lever to an end position and operate the tip-up device in proportion to a shifting length of the lever.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tamura, Button, Muraishi et al, Narita, Heling, Tezuka, Nihei et al, Hosoe, Humer, Weier, Bradley et al, Babbs, Colozza, Premji et al, Feuillet, Paisley et al, Tame, Mathey et al, Horsfield et al, Tame, Abdella et al, Niimi et al, Shiraki, and Severini et al teach structures and concepts similar to those of the present invention.

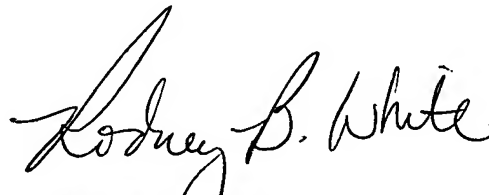
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney B. White whose telephone number is (571) 272-6863. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-6670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rodney B. White,
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3636
April 26, 2007



RODNEY B. WHITE
PRIMARY EXAMINER